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**Letter dated 27 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on reaffirming the European Union position supporting the integrity of the Rome Statute issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on 27 July 2004 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative

04-44793 (E) 030804

## Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

## Statement on reaffirming the European Union position supporting the integrity of the Rome Statute issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on 27 July 2004

The Troika of the European Union (EU) has undertaken a démarche with the United States State Department on the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC), in particular concerning bilateral non-surrender agreements.

In the démarche, the EU Troika has reiterated that the EU is a staunch supporter of ICC. The EU will continue to oppose efforts that would undermine ICC.

The EU is firmly committed to safeguarding the integrity of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and expects States parties to comply with their obligations under the Rome Statute. In that respect, the EU cannot support bilateral non-surrender agreements that do not conform with the Rome Statute in the way indicated by the Guiding Principles, as endorsed by the EU with regard to those agreements. The EU urges States parties to the International Criminal Court negotiating bilateral non-surrender agreements to act in accordance with those principles.